

POP 3 Fear Park Board Will Be Catspaw In Crane Grab For South Ave.

Ten Shop Workers, Singed By Flames, Leap From Windows of Middle Street Building—Several Hurt in Falls and Others Carry Burns.

Three Firemen Narrowly Escape Death When Engine Rushing to Fire Strikes Big Tree on Madison Avenue and Overturns.

Ten persons jumped from the third story window of the building occupied by the Hamilton Brass Co., and other concerns, at Middle and Golden Hill streets when a small fire broke out today.

Several were painfully injured. Driven from their workrooms by spitting flames, they crowded through the windows and some were hurt.

Three firemen narrowly escaped death when No. 4 engine crashed into a big tree near Eagles' hall and turned over.

The fire started in a japanning oven in the A-A Electric Co. which occupies part of the floor space of the Heath Manufacturing Co.'s plant on the second floor. Herbert Tler, who gave his address as 700 Broad street, was about to start a fire in the baking oven that dries the japanned goods. He struck a match. There was a slight puff of flame which threw burning Japan about the room. Instantly clouds of dense chemical smoke of the burning shellac and amyl acetate which forms the base of the composition filled the entire building. Tler's clothing was in flames from his head to his feet but assistance was quickly given and by means of burlap bags the flames were extinguished before his body was burned.

The A-A and Heath employees fled by means of the staircase.

On the floor above about 30 employees of the W. B. Gilbert Metal Pattern shop, were caught like rats in a trap. As they ran down the staircase which was near the burning japanning room they were forced back by fire and smoke. One of the men was overcome and was dragged up stairs by his fellow-workers. He is believed to be Michael Cobally, 30 years old of 150 Thompson street, who was later injured by jumping to the roof of T. Hawley & Co., which was covered with snow and ice.

Smoke was pouring into the upper floor of the building and became choking. Ten of the men ran to the rear window and jumped, one after another, a distance of more than a story and a half. They obtained access to a street by means of the T. Hawley & Co.'s new hardware building on Middle street. Cobally was dragged up where he had fallen and carried into the Hawley store. Dr. Deery, summoned with the emergency ambulance corps, declared he had a severe fracture of the right leg, near the ankle, and removed the patient to his home.

An alarm of fire turned in from box No. 315, "John Collins Hill and Main streets, called Engines 1, 5 and 2, chemical 1, truck 2.

When the first engine arrived on the scene the employees of the Gilbert shop were being rescued from the windows of the third story, prepared to jump to the street below. Their agonized cries for a ladder and the belief that the fire was spreading rapidly below them caused grave apprehension and repeated shouts from spectators not to jump. Firemen finally quieted them and they were induced to crawl back into the smoke-filled building.

A report that the spring lock on the hallway door leading from the Gilbert shop to A. A. factory in which the fire originated, was locked, was later investigated by Captain Thomas F. Broderick, inspector of combustibles. He found that the lock worked, but that the smoke was too dense for the men to penetrate below to the street.

Damage to the building was slight and the blaze was soon extinguished with chemicals. It is not believed that the loss to equipment will be more than nominal.

Many of the men who jumped, suffered painful bruises, and limped to their home before assistance could be rendered by the department. Some were holding their hands and wrists in a manner that indicated they had been scorched by flames. Their names could not be ascertained by the fire officials today.

W. B. Gilbert, owner of the pattern shop, was among the last to seek safety, having seen that all his men were accounted for. When the apparatus arrived he was among those who were clinging to the outside of the windows far above the street. He said that the smoke was so sudden and its effect upon the lungs so irritating that nobody could withstand it for more than two minutes after the first alarm.

THE WEATHER

Snow and colder tonight; Thursday cloudy and colder; strong northeast to northwest wind.

Crane Company Is Obligated to Give to the City the "Concession" Which it Promises in Return for the Closing of Old Thoroughfare, Whenever the Barnum Heirs Feel So Disposed—City Spent \$6,500 on Macadam For South Avenue Last Year.

Every little while a matter comes before the board of aldermen in which the whole city has deep interest and yet few people realize the fact. The proposed closing of South avenue from Iranistan avenue west is such a matter.

This matter has been up several times. The petition of the Crane Company has been denied only to be renewed. Another petition is now pending and, after a hearing, is to be given another hearing the first Monday in April.

The Park board has become interested in this latest petition. The president of the board apparently favors it. C. S. Canfield, one of the far-seeing members, opposes it. But it looks as though the people in general had a far greater interest in the question than the Park board or the Crane company.

Here are the views of a citizen who has been a resident of the city for years, a native son who has watched the growth of the city and its parks and who is, very plainly, on the people's side:

"I wonder if the park board and its dynamic president, George M. Eames, is going to play catspaw for the Crane

EIGHT HOUR DAY DRIVE THROUGHOUT THE EAST IS UNION LABOR PLAN

Prophecies that greater efforts than were made last summer will be put forth this summer by workmen of the United States, that even greater success will attend these efforts, J. F. Anderson, vice president of the International Association of Machinists, declared today that the 1916 outlook is unusually bright.

Mr. Anderson is in this city to help launch the spring campaign for a general eight hour day in Bridgeport. He is making his temporary headquarters at the Machinists' club.

"Everywhere east of Illinois a determined drive for the eight hour day will be made this summer," said Mr. Anderson today. "These cities that haven't the shorter hours will get them, we expect, and general success seems to be indicated by the early efforts of the workmen."

Bridgeport is known all over the country today, because of the progressiveness of its workmen. Keen interest is manifest all over the country in what the Bridgeport men are doing, and in Buffalo where they had a bigger strike than any here, the people showed more interest in what was going on in Bridgeport than in their own city.

More than 1,500 machinists gathered last evening in Sokol hall and heard members of the general executive board of the machinists and Vice President Anderson. The keynote of the meeting was "Preparedness" for the spring campaign. An entertainment was interspersed with the speaking.

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"Steel prices are continually going up and they are today much higher than they have been for many years. In spite of that we offer to make armor at a lower price than the United States has paid for 29 years and we agree to accept this price for the next five years. We are calling attention to the fact that though since the war began we have been able to Europe to get almost any price we chose to ask for ordnance, we have during the period made no addition whatever to the selling price to the United States government for any of the ordnance products which we manufacture."

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STEEL CO. READY TO CHOP PRICES ON ARMOR PLATE

Fear of Government Plant Causes Company to Offer a Reduction.

PROFFER A CUT OF \$30 ON A TON

President Grace Says Federal Factory Would Close Steel Plant.

Washington, March 22.—When the House naval committee today received the Tillman bill for a government armor plate plant, which passed the Senate yesterday, it also received a proposal from the Bethlehem Steel Co. to cut the price of armor from the present price of \$425 a ton to \$395.

This offer previously was made to the Senate committee and ignored. In the face of threats after the Senate committee's refusal to entertain the proposal that the armor makers would raise the price if the bill passed, the company's renewed offer caused much surprise.

The proposal was submitted by President Grace, of the Bethlehem Co. who repeated his statement that if the government erected a plant private works worth more than \$20,000,000 would be made useless. President Grace's proposal continued:

"The Bethlehem Steel Co., altogether aside from its financial interests, recognized its obligation as a citizen and, in order that its position may be clearly understood, now desires formally to submit the following proposition to the federal government:

"We will manufacture one-third or such additional quantity as may be awarded to us, of the armor plate required for the contemplated five year naval program, estimated at approximately 120,000 tons, at a price of \$395 per ton as compared with the price of \$425 now obtaining."

"The proposed price is lower than has been paid by the government for more than ten years."

"If the foregoing price is not satisfactory we will agree to permit any well known firm of chartered accountants or the federal trade commission, to inventory our plant and make careful estimates of the cost of manufacture, with that data in hand we will meet the secretary of the navy and guarantee to manufacture armor at a price which will be entirely satisfactory to him."

"We will make the foregoing proposition rather than have our plant put out of existence. We have invested, as actually inventoried today, over \$7,000,000 in that plant. This figure we do not take into account the large expenditures, certainly \$2,000,000, for the plants and equipment which have been abandoned on account of becoming obsolete."

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THREE ARE DEAD, SCORES HURT IN TORNADO THAT SWEEPS HOOSIER STATE

Indianapolis, March 22.—Three men were killed, two women and two men were seriously hurt, more than fifty persons received minor injuries and property was damaged to the extent of thousands of dollars by the wind storm that swept northern Indiana late last night, according to reports received here today. The storm prostrated wire service throughout the northern part of the state.

Logansport, Ind., March 22.—Reports received today from the district which was swept by a tornado late last night show that one man was killed, probably 20 persons injured and many thousands of dollars damage done. The storm, which did not last more than 10 minutes, swept across this city in a narrow path. In the business district doors were torn off, windows broken and trees uprooted.

Trees falling across telegraph and telephone wires severed wire communication. Street car traffic was brought to a standstill by debris heaped upon the tracks and the carrying away of electric light wires left the city in darkness.

The roof of a broom factory was blown off and crashed against the home of Benjamin Ricketts, killing members of the family.

An unidentified woman was brought to this city from Trimmer, Ind., where she had been severely crushed.

Chicago, March 22.—A sleet storm today followed the rain and thunderstorm which caused considerable damage to electric light and telephone wires throughout the city last night. Whole streets and sections of the city were left in darkness. But little property damage was done. One or two small fires broke out.

Reports from the northeastern part of Illinois, in the vicinity of Kankakee and Heaverville and from Maroon and Logansport, Ind., told of a tornado which caused the loss of one life, injury to a number of persons and heavy damage to property. Telegraph and telephone wires were down and communication with outlying points were cut off.

Marion, Ind., reported a passenger train on the Toledo, St. Louis & Western (Cloverleaf) railroad, blown from the tracks near that city late last night. Several persons were injured but none was killed.

Four cars were overturned and a fifth was tilted dangerously. Five houses were destroyed at Pittsboro, Ill., and ten demolished at Kankakee.

Beaverville, Ill., Ill., and Morocco, Ind., were said to have suffered some damage.

Maroon, Ind., March 22.—Three coaches of the Cloverleaf passenger train No. 5 were blown from the track five miles east of here by a cyclone last night. Twenty-seven passengers were on board the train, but none was seriously injured.

London, March 22.—Abandonment of Caernowyn, capital of Bukovina, by the Austrians, is reported in an unofficial wireless dispatch received here today from Rome.

A Bukharest despatch forwarded from Amsterdam by Central News, says that the Turks have evacuated Erzerum, a fortress of Asia Minor 120 miles west of Bismar.

Berlin, March 22.—The Russians have gained no success in their great offensive against the German lines, the war office announced today.

Washington, March 22.—Regarding the discussion caused by the decision of Ambassador Gerard to remain in Berlin, the following statement was given out today:

"President Wilson, through Secretary Tumulty, today authorized a denial of stories appearing in papers to the effect that the purpose of Ambassador Gerard's remaining in Berlin was to await Germany's proposal for peace. There is no justification for that inference being drawn."

Yesterday the state department took notice of publications by denying that Germany had intimated to the United States that the time was ripe for the United States, as the largest neutral, to renew its friendly offices for peace, or that the United States had been requested to postpone his vacation because of pending peace negotiations.

Unofficial reports reaching here today said the ambassador actually had postponed his vacation but gave no reason.

The state department today again took cognizance of the report and the following statement was issued:

"Any statement that the German government had intimated that it desired this government to act as mediator in peace negotiations or had in any way suggested, formally or informally, that this government should take the matter up with other powers is absolutely without foundation and that the state department has no information that Germany is preparing to make a definite move in the direction of peace."

El Paso, March 22.—The telegraph wires between Juarez and Casas Grandes were still cut today so that for more than 24 hours General Gaviara has been without news of what is transpiring at the scene of the reported fighting yesterday between Carranza and Villa forces near Namiqualpa.

On the American side communication with General Pershing remains limited and nothing about the operations of the expeditionary force has been received. Train arrivals stated that the wireless between Columbus and General Pershing's headquarters was working and that the trouble was due to weather conditions and faulty mechanical equipment.

The mystery over what is happening between Juarez and Casas Grandes is deeper than ever today. The distance between these two towns about 130 miles traversed by the Mexican Northwestern Railway, General Gaviara declared yesterday that he was sending out a repair train under guard to restore the wires and report on what caused their interruption. Early today reports from the Mexicans were to be completely at a loss as to what occurred.

As the time lengthens since Flight Lieut. Robert H. Wiley, Jr., and Edgar S. Gorrell, who disappeared with their aeroplanes into the Chihuahuan desert, fears for their safety deepen. The two officers started their flight from Columbus, Sunday.

WIRELESS NOW WORKING.

Columbus, N. M., March 22.—Wireless communication with the advanced base of the American expeditionary force at Casas Grandes was restored today. Several messages, all in code, were received, but none gave word of the two missing lieutenants of the army aero corps.

STUDENT AVIATORS ANXIOUS.

San Diego, Cal., March 22.—United States army fliers here awaited with anxiety today definite news of the junior military aviators, Edgar S. Gorrell and Robert N. Wiley, Jr., who are reported missing in Mexico. Both men received their training at the North Island School here as did Lieut. Thomas S. Bowen, who was injured by a fall in his machine near Casas Grandes.

May Send New Army

El Paso, Tex., March 22.—American military authorities are contemplating sending a new column into Mexico to rescue the missing aviators. It was stated that this plan was under consideration as an alternative should Carranza refuse the request of the Washington government for the use of Mexico Northwestern Railroad over which to transport supplies to American troops.

FINED FOR FIGHTING

Joseph Costello, age 24, 163 North Washington avenue, and Harold McGrath, age 21, 246 Hazel avenue, were fined \$5 and costs each in city court this morning. They were charged with mutual assault and breach of the peace. In city court both denied that there was any fight.

FIELD LOST AERO

Scouts Report That United States Aviator Has Landed South of Expeditionary Camp—Other Still Missing, Headquarters Says.

Telegraph Wires From Army Cut, and Wireless Fails After Few Messages Come Are Received—No Reports of Clash With Villa.

San Antonio, March 22.—One of the aviators missing from the squadron that went to join General Pershing's column, descended somewhere south of Casas Grandes, it was learned at General Funston's headquarters today. His name was not given.

Earlier reports had indicated that both came down somewhere along the line of communication between the border line and Casas Grandes, General Pershing's advanced base of operations.

Reports today explained that one reached Casas Grandes and was sent south over the country in which the three detachments of cavalry are operating. No details relative to his disappearance were received.

Wires From Front Out of Commission

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